Shoreline
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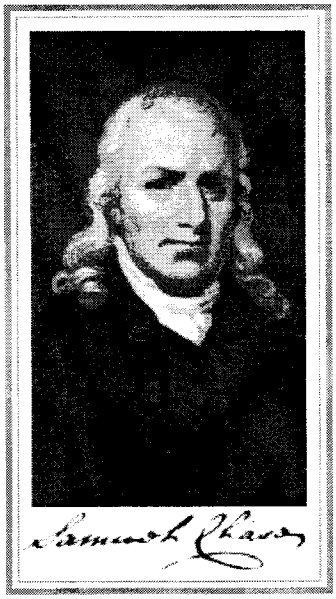
Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

Samuel Chase Birthplace

by Jill Nock Jeffery



Anyone who has recently visited the Nabb Research Center has noticed that we have a new sign. We recently installed a Samuel Chase state highway marker that was generously donated to the Nabb Research Center by representatives of the Preservation Trust of Wicomico County. The sign was put in place in front of the building to help visitors locate the Nabb Research Center in its less than obvious location. Now you may ask yourself how on earth the Nabb Research Center ended up with the sign. It was all part of the great debate over the Samuel Chase birthplace. The state made the Samuel Chase sign, but since no one can say with any degree of certainty exactly where Chase was born, the Nabb Research Center seemed as good a place as any to acknowledge Chase's contributions to the country and the state of Maryland.

Samuel Chase is best known as a signer of the Declaration of Independence and an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Chase was born in Somerset or Wicomico county (depending on your perspective) in 1741. His father was an Anglican minister who served in Somerset Parish from 1739-1742. The elder Chase, who had studied medicine before becoming a minister, provided his son with a classical education. In 1744, the Chases moved to Baltimore where Thomas Chase was the minister at St. Paul's Church. At age 18, Samuel Chase moved to Annapolis to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1761. Chase was a passionate man who ardently supported America's independence from Britain. After serving in the colonial legislature, he was sent to Philadelphia as one of Maryland's five delegates to the first Continental Congress in 1774.

Chase had a keen intellect which was sometimes clouded by his stormy temper. He was unlucky in business and constantly plagued by financial difficulties. Nevertheless, he served as chief judge of the Maryland General Court until 1796 when President George Washington appointed him to the United States Supreme Court. Judge Chase was a fervent Federalist. Although we do not like to talk about it here in Maryland, Chase's partisan views nearly got him removed from the Supreme Court by his Republican rivals. During Thomas Jefferson's presidency, Chase was technically impeached, but he was eventually acquitted of any wrongdoing. He remained on the Supreme Court until his death from gout in 1811.

So, where was Chase born? Over the years, there have been three main schools of thought. Some believe that Chase was born in the old Somerset Parish glebe house which is located about one mile south of Princess Anne just off of Route 13. This house has come to be known as the Maude Jeffries House because Mrs. Jeffries was instrumental in restoring the house and adding it to the Olde Princess Anne Days tour. While young Samuel may have lived in a parish house in Davis' Choice with his father, it seems unlikely that he was born there. Chase was born in 1741 as evidenced by his gravesite in Old St. Paul's Church cemetery in Baltimore. Since Thomas Chase did not take possession of the glebe property until February 1742/3, his son could not have been born there.

The second contender for the Samuel Chase birth place is the Walker House, which was owned by Samuel Chase's maternal grandfather, Thomas Walker. According to a history written by Episcopal minister, Ethan Allen, in 1857, the Walker plantation, Last Purchase, was located on the southeast side of the Wicomico River near the mouth of Dashiell's Creek. Chase's mother, Matilda Walker, was said to have died in the Walker house from complications from childbirth. When Thomas Walker died in 1744 he left a legacy of £125 sterling to Samuel Chase to be paid by his daughter Elizabeth Walker Sarly (or Surly) and her husband Jacob in exchange for the Last Purchase tract of land. Sarly sold the land to her sister, Jane Walker Lucas. She in turn willed the land to her three daughters, Matilda Bounds, Jane Dashiell and Margaret Waters. Margaret was married to Captain Thomas Waters, Jane to Robert Dashiell and Matilda to James Jones Bounds.

When Allen wrote his history in 1857, the land was occupied by the brothers Thomas and James Stone, both of whom were physicians and the sons of Rev. William Stone who was Bishop of Maryland in the 1830s. The land was

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Monday 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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July 4, 2001
September 4, 2001

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Samuel Chase Birthplace

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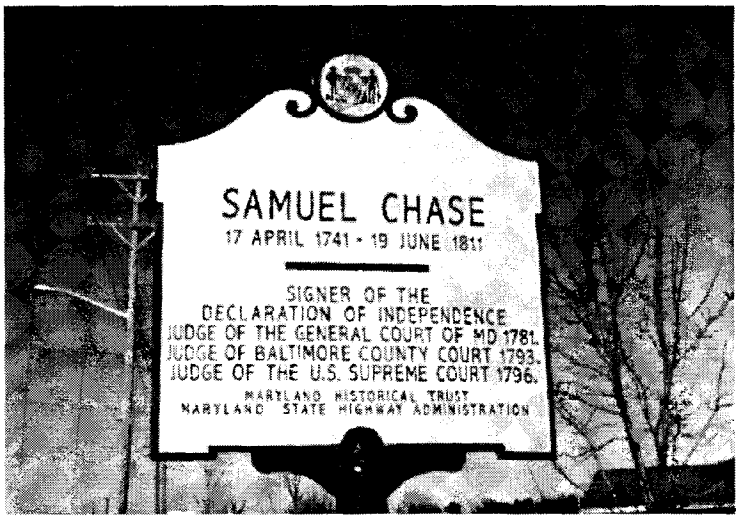
SAMUEL CHASE
17 APRIL 1741 • 19 JUNE 1811
SIGNER OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
JUDGE OF THE GENERAL COURT OF MD 1781.
JUDGE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY COURT 1793.
JUDGE OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT 1796.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

bequeathed to the Stones in 1830 by their aunt, Susannah Waters, second wife of Thomas Waters. In 1857, the Stones apparently told Allen that the Samuel Chase birthplace was located to the east of their house. Given that Allen's history was written in the mid-1800s, it is possible that some of his information was taken from older residents of the community who were alive during Chase's lifetime. Allen's story is further supported by the fact that the information was provided to him by Walker family descendants (albeit indirect descendants) who actually lived on the old Walker plantation.

The third known possible birthplace of Samuel Chase called Bounds Lott (or Bounds Chance) is located on the Wicomico River near Allen. When the house was acquired by the Withey family in the 1960s, it was being used to store hay. The Witheys saved the house and have now restored it to its 18th century grandeur. In the mid-1700s when Samuel Chase was born, the house was owned by the Bounds family. Local legend holds that when Matilda Walker was pregnant with her son Samuel, she crossed the frozen Wicomico River to visit her sister who was living at Bounds Lott. While staying at Bounds Lott, she gave birth to Samuel.

In his will, Matilda's father, Thomas Walker, named seven living daughters, Elisabeth Surley, Mary Richardson, Sarah Fletcher, Jane Lucas and Rebecca, Elener and Ann Walker. Given the sheer number of Walker girls, perhaps it is possible that one of Matilda's seven sisters was living near Bounds Lott at the time of Samuel's birth. The records, however, do not seem to support this theory. In examining the ownership of the Bounds Lott property, it appears that prior to 1752 the land was owned by James Bounds who was married to Sarah Stevens Bounds, daughter of Richard Stevens. The only Sarah mentioned in Thomas Walker's will was Sarah Fletcher, wife of the Reverend Thomas Fletcher. Thus, it does not appear that any of Thomas Walker's daughters was ever married to a Bounds of Bounds Lott.

There is one clear connection between the Walker family of Last Purchase and the Bounds family of Bounds Lott in the third generation. James Bounds, son of James, Sr. and Sarah Stevens, married Matilda Lucas who was the daughter of Jane Walker Lucas and niece of Matilda Walker Chase. Given that Matilda Lucas did not marry James Bounds until 1753, Matilda Walker Chase would not have had any reason to visit her niece at Bounds Lott during her pregnancy. Part of the confusion about which side of the Wicomico River Samuel Chase was born on may also have arisen because in the mid-1700s Whitehaven was on the Somerset side of the Wicomico River near Last Purchase, not the Wicomico side of the river where it is found today. In fact, in 1744 Thomas Walker willed a town lot in Whitehaven to one of his daughters, but more on that in our next issue of the newsletter.

Whatever the case, Samuel Chase is and will remain one of Maryland's most prominent sons. Chase's exact birthplace seems destined to remain a mystery. We can all agree, however, that he was born in Old Somerset. As the search continues for the "real" Chase House, you will find the Nabb Research Center next to the Samuel Chase sign.

Who's Who: Outstanding Women in Our Community Reunion

by Corinne Les Callette

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Nabb Research Center held a reunion of women who had been recognized by the City of Salisbury during the Sesqui-Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1982. At that time there were 103 women named "Who's Who, Outstanding Women in Our Community." Of that number, 53 were located and invited to attend the reunion on March 30.

The invitees were asked to update the information published in 1982 and a booklet was printed covering "Then" and "Now" for the women. Corsages were generously donated for these ladies by Penny Bradford of Kitty's Flowers. Greetings were brought by Salisbury Mayor Barrie Parsons Tilghman and Salisbury City Council then President Lavonzella Siggers. An enlightening, occasionally hilarious, eye-opening talk on colonial women was given by Dr. G. Ray Thompson, chair of the History Department of Salisbury State University.

For many of the women, this was their first visit to the Nabb Research Center; however, many promised they would return to pursue genealogical research on their families.

Digging for the Past: Maryland Archaeology Month Speakers

Left: students, faculty and community members attend presentation
Above: Dr. Timothy Riordan

Archaeologists have largely ignored the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland, focusing their attention instead on the Annapolis area and the rich sites of Tidewater Virginia. Hundreds of immigrants, however, settled on the Lower Eastern Shore by the mid-17th century, and they must have left behind countless material clues about their daily lives and the society that grew up here throughout the colonial period. Ed Otter, an archaeology Ph.D. candidate from Catholic University, is poised to give the Lower Shore the archaeological attention that it deserves.

On Thursday, April 26, Otter presented to an audience of students, scholars and genealogists an outline of the preliminary archival research that he and Nabb Center Director Becky Miller have conducted to guide his excavation of a 17th century site in Somerset County. Otter hopes to locate the original homesite of Randall Revell, one of the first English settlers to live in Somerset County. Revell's plantation was the site of significant economic social activity throughout the century. A thorough survey and excavation of his property should yield valuable evidence about early life on the Lower Shore and will offer an excellent opportunity to compare data from other sites in the Chesapeake region.

Otter hopes to begin excavation this summer with the Salisbury State Archaeological Field School which runs from May 29-June 28. Anyone interested in attending the Field School should contact Otter at 410-677-5010 or by e-mail at ecotter@ssu.edu.

On Saturday, April 28, the Nabb Research Center was also pleased to host an informative presentation by Dr. Timothy Riordan, chief archaeologist at Historic St. Mary's City. Riordan spoke about the excavations that are underway at a 17th century cemetery site at St. Mary's City. The analysis of the 57 burials have revealed a wealth of information about the lives of early Maryland settlers and the development of our modern beliefs about death and mortuary rituals.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the happenings at Historic St. Mary's City can visit their Web site at www.stmaryscity.org.

Kotlowski Joins SSU History Department

The Nabb Research Center welcomes Salisbury State University history professor, Dr. Dean Kotlowski. Kotlowski's area of expertise is 20th century U.S. history. He received his B.A. from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, and his M.A./Ph.D. from Indiana University. His dissertation, which will be published later this year by Harvard University Press, is a study of the Nixon administration's policies toward African-Americans, Native Americans and women. Kotlowski recently edited the work, *European Union: From Jean Monnet to the Euro* (Ohio University Press).

When not teaching and writing, Kotlowski enjoys collecting stamps and political memorabilia and watching old movies. Kotlowski will be using the Nabb Research Center as part of the curriculum for his 20th century history classes.

Board of Directors Welcomes New Leaders:
Nabb Research Center Director Rebecca Miller is pictured with newly elected chair of the Nabb Research Center Board of Directors, Gordon Wood. Dr. G. Ray Thompson was elected vice-chair at the April 2001 board meeting, and Polly Batchelder will continue her tenure as secretary.

A Fond Farewell

As a member of the Salisbury State University community, the Nabb Research Center has been fortunate to have outstanding students join our staff as participants in the SSU Work Study Program. Lindsay Read came to the Nabb Research Center through this program as a sophomore in the fall of 1998 and has become a valuable materials processor. She will be missed when she graduates on May 26, 2001.

Working with volunteer, Polly Batchelder, the first project that Read was assigned was the tedious one of interpreting and correcting entry data for our map collection, entering this corrected data into our Access database, and then printing the collection data as a collection finding aid catalogue. This project required a very detailed and focused effort. Our confidence in this map table of our database was such that it was the first database to be offered at our Web site. Because of Read's diligence, the Nabb Research Center has an excellent research tool.

Read will graduate with a degree in history and has particularly enjoyed such classes as "History of the '60s" and "History of the South" with Prof. Donald Whaley and "History of Film" with Dr. Maarten Pereboom. Her historical focus has been rewarded by her admittance to the Social Sciences Honor Society as well as an invitation to present a paper, "*Platoon*: Oliver Stone's Viet Nam," at the Salisbury State University Undergraduate Research Conference that was held at the end of April.

Last summer Read worked as a historical interpreter at Fort Frederick in Washington County. Of that experience she said, " I enjoyed putting myself back in time. This helped me value the historical process." She plans to begin her master's in historical studies (public history) at UMBC in the fall. The Nabb Research Center staff wishes her continued success as she looks forward to her future while studying the past.

Calendar of Events

Most would agree that the Delmarva Peninsula really comes alive in the summer months. In honor of that spirit, here is an abbreviated calendar of events for the tri-state area. For additional information or events, please visit the "Links" section of our Web site which is located at http://nabbhistory.ssu.edu/.

June 14-16
Delmarva Chicken Festival, Cypress Park, Pocomoke, MD - 410-957-1919

June 16
10th Annual Lewes Garden Tour, Lewes, DE - 302-645-8073

July 1-October 28
Living History—Historic Houses of Odessa, Odessa, DE - 302-378-4069

July 25-26
76th Annual Pony Swim and Auction, Chincoteague, VA – 757-336-6161

July 28
Fourth Annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Blue Crab Music Festival, Cape Charles, VA – 757-442-5175

August 5-6
CEMTREK 2001 – Annual pilgrimage to the Nabb Research Center and Delmarva cemeteries with historical/genealogical significance – shari@tyaskin.com

August 10-12
Worcester County Fair, Furnace Town Historic Site, Snow Hill, MD - 410-632-1972

August 11
22nd Annual Seafood Feast-i-val, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, MD - 410-228-1211

August 31-September 2
54th Annual National Hard Crab Derby and Fair, Somers Cove Marina, Crisfield, MD - 410-968-2500

September 1-3
42nd Skipjack Races and Festival, Deal Island, MD - 410-784-2203

September 9
African-American Heritage Festival, Stephen Decatur Park, Berlin, MD - 410-641-1988

September 15-16
Ninth Annual Native American Festival, Sailwinds Park, Cambridge, MD - 410-376-3889

September 15-16
Fourth Annual Onancock Regatta Weekend, Onancock, VA - 757-787-3363

September 29
Pemberton Colonial Fair, Pemberton Park, Salisbury, MD - 410-548-4914

(Be sure to verify the date and time before you go!)

In Recognition of Outstanding Contributions

To the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture 2000 - 2001

We honor the following volunteers:

CATHERINE ALVARO
POLLY BATCHELDER
FAY BROOKS
ELLALINE ROY-MCCAULEY
JEFFREY PILCHARD
PATRICIA TAYLOR
BARBARA TRADER
LLOYD WHITEHEAD
LUCY WHITEHEAD
JEAN WOOLSTON

Spotlight on Collections

Hear Ye! 1877 Atlases Available for Sale

Through the courtesy of Nabb Research Center member John L. "Jack" Graham, we have again been able to purchase 10 copies of the much sought after *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, published by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission in 1976, with the cooperation of the Bicentennial Commissions and Historical Societies of Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Kent and Queen Anne's counties. In addition, Graham has donated to the Nabb Research Center, for purposes of resale, single sheet copies of the following maps which are also contained in the atlas: "Outline Plan of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties," "John Smith's 1629 Map," "Mid-Chesapeake Bay Circa 1840," various Districts of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, Salisbury Districts 5, 8 and 9, "Augustine Hermann Map" (1673) and "Thomas Buffet Map" (1676).

The cost of the atlas is $70; individual "original" maps are $6; and laser quality color copies of the maps are $3. The Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester county map sets are $35 each. These are residual, unused books and maps that were discovered by Graham and made available for resale to benefit the Nabb Research Center. Some members will recall that a similar offering was made in spring 1999. Bookstores specializing in used collectible books have charged $75 or more for used copies of the 1877 atlas.

The atlases are being made available to Nabb Research Center members before the sale is advertised to the general public on our Web site on July 1. No member discount will apply on this very special, rare book. Please make your check payable to SSU Foundation Inc. for the appropriate amount plus $2.50 shipping and handling and remit to the Nabb Research Center. Maryland residents please add 5 percent sales tax.

Deal Island Church Records

by T. Aaron Horner

This past winter, a number of Methodist church record books from the Deal Island area were microfilmed. The earliest of these records date back to the mid-1870s when Deal Island became a separate charge and run almost continuously up to the 1980s. They cover the churches at Deal Island (St. John's), Wenona (St. Paul's) and Chance (Rock Creek).

Although the baptism and marriage records will be a goldmine to genealogists, they contain historical information on these area churches as well. Other topics of interest include accounts, class records, probationers and records of official members. Further research into these books found documentation on material concerning Holland's Island, a surprise given the fact that Deal Island and Holland's Island lie in separate counties.

At the time of the filming, many of these books had begun to show their age with pages falling out and the paper eaten at the edges. Now with these records filmed, they can last long after the books are gone, proving that they are a plus to the Nabb Research Center. Thanks to the consent of the laymen at the Deal Island churches and the assistance of the Center, these records will be accessible for public use. The Center hopes to transcribe these records in the near future.

CD-ROM Holdings

As part of our overall mission to be the premiere repository for Delmarva history and culture, we are pleased to announce the addition of digital information to our collections. The following is an abbreviated listing of the CDs in our ever expanding collection. The next time you stop by the Nabb Research Center, please be sure to check out our digital holdings.

American Source Records in England, 1600s-1800s (International Records)
Ancestry Reference Library
Atlas of the Official Records of the Civil War
British Officers Serving in America, 1754-1783
Civil War Era - Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies and Navies
Freedman's Bank Records
Heritage Books Archives: Essential historical and genealogical works on Maryland, including Narratives of Early Maryland and Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Marylanders (1877)
Marriage Records: Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina , Ohio, Southern States, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
Maryland Probate Records, 1674-1774 (V. L. Skinner, Jr.)
Maryland Settlers and Soldiers 1700s-1800s
Military Records: Revolutionary Patriots, Maryland and Delaware
Selected Virginia Genealogies and Biographies 1500s-1900s
Social Security Death Benefit Records
Somerset County Judicial Records 1670-1691
Southern Historical Society Papers, The
U. S. Census Indexes: Pre-1790, 1790, Northeastern - 1830-1839
Virginia Colonial Records 1600s-1700s
Virginia Genealogies and Biographies

Scholarly Donations

The Nabb Research Center would like to thank Joseph Brown Thomas Jr. who recently donated over 60 books and numerous papers on Maryland's colonial history to the Center. In 1994, Thomas, a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, wrote his doctoral dissertation on the settlement and development of towns on Maryland's Eastern Shore from 1660-1775. When Thomas' career led him down a different path, he decided to donate all of the materials he gathered while writing his dissertation to the Nabb Research Center. Part of the Nabb Research Center's mission is to maintain a cutting edge collection of scholarly works on Chesapeake history. Thomas' donation has assisted us in this endeavor because the monographs and papers in his collection represent the best of current colonial and Maryland scholarship.

We would also like to thank Chuck Fithian, Salisbury State University graduate student and Delaware State Archaeologist, for his assistance in compiling a bibliographic guide to important works in Delaware history. We hope to use this information to augment and improve our Delaware collections.

Book Acquisitions

Spring 2001

_____. *Shore Writers' Sampler*
_____. *Shore Writers' Sampler II*
_____. *Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 From Rolls in the Auditor's Office in Richmond.* 2 vols.
Amos, Gary and Richard Gardiner. *Never Before in History: America's Inspired Birth*
Ammerman, David L. *Books About Early America*
Bailyn, Bernard. *Strangers Within the Realm: Cultural Margins of the First British Empire*
Baker, William A. *Sloops and Shallops*
Berland, Kevin, Jan Kirsten Gilliam and Kenneth A. Lockridge. *The Commonplace Book of William Byrd II of Westover*
Berlin, Ira. *Cultivation and Culture: Labor and the Shaping of Slave Life in the Americas*
Bonomi, Patricia U. *Under the Cope of Heaven: Religion, Society and Politics in Colonial America*
Bozman, John Leeds. *The History of Maryland.* Vol. 1-3
Brackett, Jeffrey R. *The Negro in Maryland*
Bridenbaugh, Carl. *The Colonial Craftsman*
Burkett, Jerri Lynn (Graham). *The Descendants of Robert Graham of Kent County, Delaware*
Bushman, Richard L. *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*
Carr, Lois Green. Russell Menard and Louis Peddicord. *Maryland ... at the Beginning*
Carson, Cary. *Of Consuming Interests: The Style of Life in the 18th Century*
Chaplin, Joyce E. *An Anxious Pursuit*
Clemens, Paul G.E. *The Atlantic Economy and Colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore: From Tobacco to Grain*
Coldham, Peter Wilson. *American Migrations 1765-1799*
Cook, Don. *The Long Fuse: How England Lost the American Colonies, 1760-1785*
Davies, Mary Butler. *Time and Tide*
Deetz, James. *Flowerdew Hundred: The Archaeology of a Virginia Plantation, 1619-1864*
DeVincent-Hayes, Nan and John E. Jacob. *Ocean City.* Vol. I & II
Dobson, David. *American Data from the Records of the High Court of the Admiralty of Scotland 1675-1800*
Dunaway, Wilma A. *The First American Frontier: Transition to Capitalism in Southern Appalachia, 1700-1860*
Dunn, Richard S. *Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies1624-1713*
Elkins, Stanley. *The Age of Federalism: The Early American Republic, 1788-1800*
Everstine, Carl N. *The General Assembly, 1634-1776*
Farmer, Charles J. *In the Absence of Towns: Settlement and Country Trade in Southside Virginia, 1730-1800*
Fischer, David Hackett. *The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythms of History*
Fleet, Beverley. *Virginia Colonial Abstracts.* 3 vols.
Galenson, David. *White Servitude in Colonial America*
Gehring, Charles T. *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch Vols. XVIII-XIX Delaware Papers (Dutch Period)*
Gehring, Charles T. *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch Vols. XX-XXI Delaware Papers (English Period)*
Gibson, Jeremy and Alan Dell. *The Protestation Returns 1641-1642*
Glasrud, Bruce A. *Race Relations in British North America 1607-1783*
Goldenberg, Joseph A. *Shipbuilding in Colonial America*
Gould, Eliga H. *The Persistence of Empire*
Greene, Jack P. *Colonial British America: Essays in the New History of the Early Modern Era*
Greene, Jack P. *Imperatives, Behaviors and Identities: Essays in Early American Cultural History*
Greene, Jack P. *Interpreting Early America: Historiographical Essays*
Greene, Jack P. *Negotiated Authorities: Essays in Colonial Political and Constitutional History*
Greene, Jack P. *Peripheries and Center: Constitutional Development in the Extended Politics of the British Empire and the United States*
Greene, Jack P. *Pursuits of Happiness: The Social Development of Early Modern British Colonies and the Formation of American Culture*
Hahn, Steven. *The Countryside in the Age of Capitalist Transformation: Essays in the Society History of Rural America*
Hall, Kermit L. *The Magic Mirror: Law in American History*
Hamer, David. *New Towns in the New World: Images and Perceptions of the 19th-Century Urban Frontier*
Hast, Adele. *Loyalism in Revolutionary Virginia the Norfolk Area and the Eastern Shore*
Heinegg, Paul. *Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware from the Colonial Period to 1810*
Hibbert, Christopher. *Redcoats and Rebels: The American Revolution Through British Eyes*
Hoffman, Ronald, Mechal Sobel and Fredrika J. Teute. *Through A Glass Darkly*
Horn, James. *Adapting to a New World: English Society in the 17th Century Chesapeake*
Jacob, John E., Janet Carter, Ellis Wainwright. *Postcard History Series: Worcester County*
Jacobsen, Phebe R. *Quaker Records in Maryland*
Kaufman, John Gilbert. *History of the Kaufman/Hobbes Family*
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Caroline County, Maryland Register of Wills 1688-1769.* Liber CCA
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Caroline County, Maryland Register of Wills 1770-1778.* Liber Ai
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Caroline County, Maryland Register of Wills 1779-1784.* Liber Ai
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Caroline County, Maryland Register of Wills 1785-1792.* Liber JB I, Transcript
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Caroline County, Maryland Register of Wills 1793-1799.* Liber JR B i, Transcript
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Dorchester County, Maryland Rent Rolls 1659-1772.* Vol. 1
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Dorchester County, Maryland Rent Rolls 1659-1772.* Vol. 2
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Rent Rolls for Somerset County.* Vol. 1
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Rent Rolls for Somerset County.* Vol. 2
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Salisbury, Maryland City Directory 1907*
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Somerset County Court Land Records 1753-1759*
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Somerset County, Maryland Rent Rolls 1662-1772.* Vol. 5
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Somerset County, Maryland Rent Rolls 1662-1772.* Vol. 6
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Wicomico County, Maryland Wills Liber WB #1 December 1867-December 1879*
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Worcester County, Maryland Land Records Libers N and O 1789-1791*
Keddie, Leslie and Neil, abstractors. *Worcester County, Maryland Land Records Liber T 1798-1800*
Leonard, R. Bernice. *Caroline County, Maryland Land Records Volume P 1825-1827*
Leonard, R. Bernice and Helen E. Seymour. *Land Records Caroline County, Maryland Book 5 Volume H 1801-1804 and Volume I 1804-1809*
McCusker, John J. *The Economy of British America*
McGaw, Judith A. *Early American Technology Making and Doing Things From the Colonial Era to 1850*
Mariner, Kirk. *God's Island: The History of Tangier*
Meyers, Amy R. W. and Margaret Beck Pritchard. *Empire's Nature Mark Catesby's New World Vision*
Mihalyka, Jean M. *Bible Records Accomack and Northampton Counties, VA*
Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*
Mills, Pauline Jones and Walter H. Jones. *Descendants of Jacob S. and Mary Magdalene Rodney Jones of Lower Sussex County, Delaware*
Morgan, Philip D. *Slave Counterpoint: Black Culture in the 18th Century Chesapeake and Lowcountry*
Morris, Clay Louise. *You Take the High Road*
Morris, John G. *Lords Baltimore*
Neill, Edward D. *Founders of Maryland as Portrayed in Manuscripts, Provincial Records and Early Documents*
Nicholas, Thomas. *Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales.* Vol. I and Vol. II
O'Brien, Michael J. LL.D. *Pioneer Irish in New England*
Olds, Fred A. *An Abstract of North Carolina Wills from About 1760 to About 1800*
Price, Jacob M. *France and the Chesapeake*
Pyne, Rev. Frederick Wallace. *Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence Vol. 5 Delaware and Maryland*
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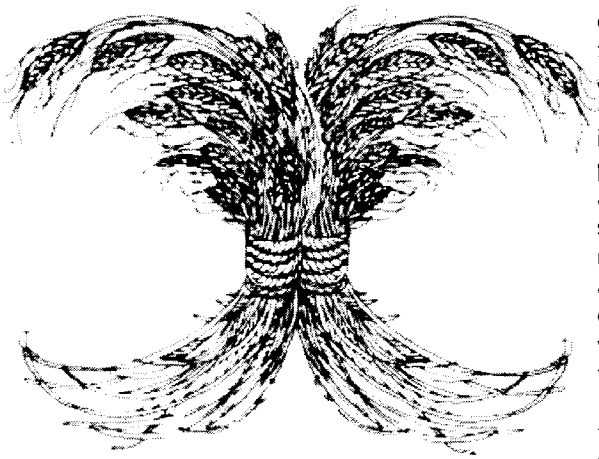
Neil Pontificates

"On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia"

by Neil Keddie



While W.C. Fields's epitaph serves as a last twitting of the American sense of humor by a legendary comedian, for provincial inhabitants of Maryland's Eastern Shore the phrase takes on a more serious connotation. In 1777 when local loyalists in Somerset County raised the king's standard the Maryland Council of Safety heard of the tumult taking place at Parker's Mill Pond after a packet of letters from concerned locals was forwarded to Annapolis from the Maryland delegates to the Continental Congress then in session in Philadelphia.

The Eastern Shore-Philadelphia connection during the 18th century was a strong one and for most residents of the Shore, it probably was stronger than any ties that existed between the Eastern and Western shores of the province. The primary cause for the close association between Philadelphia and the Shore is one that impacted just about every Shoreman, and that was economic opportunism. By mid-18th century the shift from tobacco to grain production was well underway, and it was Philadelphia and its merchants that served as the major outlet for Eastern Shore crops to the larger markets of the world. Over time, grain production would overtake tobacco as the primary staple crop on the Shore and eventually—due to population strains on the land—tobacco growing on the Shore would become nearly extinct.

In his book, *The Atlantic Economy and Colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore*, Paul Clemens argues that diversification on the Shore was the result of two factors. One being the growth in demand for wheat and corn marketing networks meant Eastern Shore planters were more assured that prices for their crops would remain adequate. Additionally, Clemens argued that diversification took hold more readily as planters found that they could grow grains without seriously impacting the labor and land needs for tobacco. Secondly, as population on the Shore began to rise putting serious pressure on the land, planters were forced into making a decision as to the best usage for their land. Although wheat and tobacco markets tended to rise and fall together, grains showed less volatility in prices than did tobacco, and thus, more planters began the trend toward grain, in particular, wheat production.

The entrance of Eastern Shore grain into the larger trading network began primarily as a result of the axis of trade between New England and the West Indies during the 17th century. The boom in sugar as a staple crop, the rapid employment of slave labor, and the consequent need for provisions such as corn and lumber products intensified the relationship between New England merchants and the planters of the Indies. But, as Clemens points out, two major disruptions transpired that threatened this pattern in trade. King Phillip's War and a wheat blight that spread across New England farms forced merchants in that region to turn to the Chesapeake for corn to feed the West Indies and wheat to supply the more urban seaports of the Northeast. As the market for grains grew, Eastern Shore and Chesapeake merchants began dispatching their own ships with wheat for the northeast and corn for the Caribbean.

By the 1740s another transition in the grain trade made a large impact on the Eastern Shore as farmers in the region began making use of two new outlets for their produce: those being the ports of Annapolis and Philadelphia. As Philadelphia merchants increased their share of the Atlantic trade in grain, their need increased for links from that port to grain producing regions. The merchants began to look beyond those farms in Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania that had been their primary suppliers and began to focus farther afield to the farms of Maryland's Eastern Shore. The European demand for American wheat intensified during this period as a series of crop failures in southern Europe created shortages that could only be overcome by importation.

As Philadelphia merchants began their reach southward, the Shore began responding by establishing routes for shipping the wheat or flour to that city for export. As Ron Hoffman pointed out in his work on Maryland during the American Revolution, *A Spirit of Dissension, Economics, Politics and the Revolution in Maryland*, the preferred route was to send the crop up the Chesapeake by sloop to Elkton at the head of the Bay. After reaching Elkton the wheat was offloaded onto wagons, which then transported the wheat overland to Christiana Bridge where it was once again loaded on small vessels such as shallops, which made their way up the Delaware to Philadelphia. However, as the trade with Philadelphia strengthened, other routes were employed. In many cases the wheat was shipped up the more navigable rivers of the Eastern Shore to those river heads and then transported overland to a river in Delaware that flowed into the Delaware Bay and finally, to Philadelphia. During the winter months when the rivers froze, the trip was made exclusively by wagon overland to the port of Philadelphia.

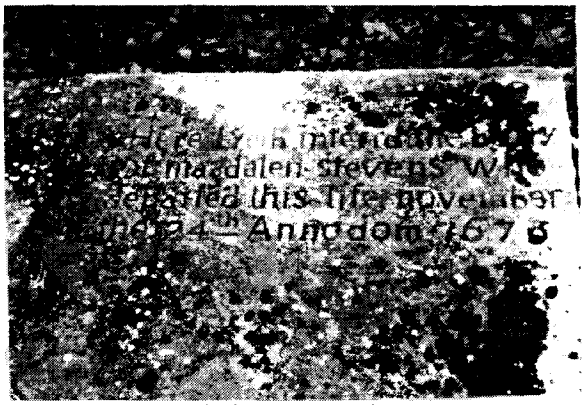
The wheat trade benefited the Eastern Shore in other ways. Prior to the diversification of grain when tobacco was the principal staple crop, community networks were widespread and few, if any, towns dotted the landscape. Those towns that were created and laid out by Act of Assembly were designed to function as government centers, customs ports, or, when tobacco prices dropped, tobacco collection and inspection

Continued on page 10

Recorded in Stone and Deed

by Robert T. Stevens III

No name of mortal is secure in stone
Hewn on the Parthenon, the name will waste
Carved on the Pyramid, 'twill be effaced;
In the heroic deed, and there alone
Is man's one hold against the craft of Time.



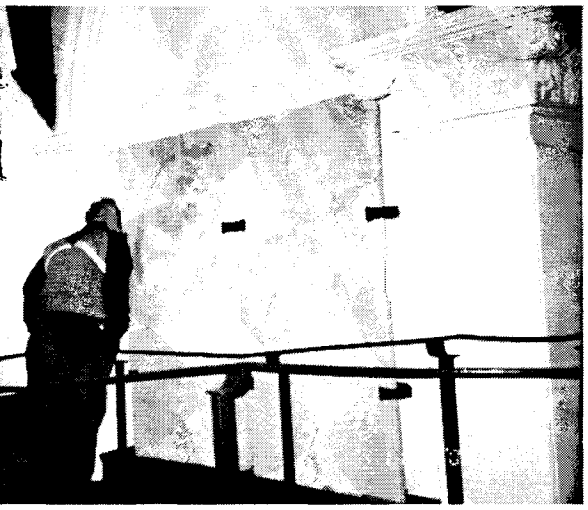
Gravestone ledger of Magdalen Stevens, died 1678 at Horn Point, Dorchester County. Oldest stone in Dorchester County.

These poetic words of Edwin Markham may be true, however, recently two 17th century grave markers, those of William and Magdalen Stevens, were placed on the nave wall of Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge. This placement was for their protection from weathering, as they are the earliest surviving grave stones (1678) in Dorchester County and among the oldest, if not the oldest, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. An impressive service of rededication and celebration took place at Christ Church on December 3, 2000, led by the Rt. Rev. Martin Townsend, bishop of Easton, the Rev. Nathaniel Pierce, rector, and Quaker historian Dr. Lawrence Claggett.

Quakers William and Magdalen Stevens made their home at Horn Point on the Great Choptank River, arriving there no later than 1666. Their home is now the site of the Cambridge Country Club. They were large Dorchester land holders and their livelihood came from that early single, non-constructive and land-consuming crop, tobacco. After years of struggle, Magdalen *"departed this life, November 24th Anno dom. 1678"* reads her 6 feet by 3 feet grave marker. William died in December 1684 and was laid to rest beside her at their Horn Point home, "The Cliffe."

When Dorchester was organized as a county in 1669, Lord Baltimore appointed William Stevens one of the commissioners *"... to keep and Cause to be kept all Laws and Ordinance made ..."*

In the late 1940s when the Dorchester Country Club was established, William's and Magdalen's markers were moved to the Christ Church graveyard, but unfortunately without proper footing preparation. In 1967, William's stone was cracking badly and the church authorized repairs and an improved base. By the mid-1990s the elements had caused greater damage to the limestone monuments, especially William's stone. Due to their historic significance, and with the support of the rector, the graveyard chairperson and the church vestry, it was agreed they should be restored and placed inside the church.



The Rev. Nathaniel Pierce, Christ Church, Cambridge, examining the newly placed grave monument of William and Magdalen Stevens on the nave wall of the church.

It was after much searching, finally, a skilled mason restoration specialist was found in St. Mary's City, who would undertake restoring the monuments. Raymond Cannetti moved the stones to his facility in Southern Maryland and with great care and dedication rebuilt William's marker preserving his entire legend. Earlier, Cannetti completed restoration work on George Washington's tomb, at the White House, and in Bruton Parish, Williamsburg. He determined the limestone of the Eastern Shore grave monuments was identical to that found in Bruton Parish. In the late 1600s it had been brought from the Purbeck Quarry on the southern coast of England near the town of Dorchester. What a small world!

Puritans William and Magdalen Stevens, and their two sons, immigrated to Maryland from Virginia in 1651, as part of the Puritan exodus from Royal Governor William Berkeley's oppression of non-Anglicans. Their first Maryland land grant was 100 acres on the Patuxent River near Solomons in Calvert County. In 1988, in preparation for the construction of Asbury Methodist Home, an archaeological dig was conducted on the original 1651 Stevens Land Grant. This archeological investigation is the earliest dig in Calvert County. Dr. Julia A. King, director of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (and wife of Raymond Cannetti) was involved with the conservation of numerous artifacts found at the site. These include scissors, a bone tooth beard comb, gun shot, pottery and earthenware from England, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and some locally made English and native pipes, bones from domestic and wild life. Even footings outlining the home, out buildings and fences were found.

Truly, this very early Terra Mariae couple's epic is secure in both stone and deed—first, on the Eastern Shore with their earliest grave stones and as the first commissioner in Dorchester County, and second on the Western Shore in the earliest archaeological investigation in Calvert County.

An 11th generation direct descendant of William and Magdalen, Robert Stevens is a retired principal of the Montgomery County Public Schools. A Nabb Research Center member and O.C. Life-Saving Station board member, he can be contacted at SurfmanRTS@aol.com. Stevens is currently researching the Chaplain family of Talbot County.

Prize Winners Announced for 2001

The Nabb Research Center congratulates Doris W. Gelbman, the 2001 recipient of the Wilcomb E. Washburn Student Prize for History. The $500 prize is awarded each year to a Salisbury State University student for outstanding writing on the history of Delmarva prior to 1950. This prestigious award is made possible by an endowment from the William H. Donner Foundation of New York. In order to be considered for the prize, the student's essay must have been written using primary resources from the Nabb Research Center. Doris' essay, "Politics, Religion and Money in the Maryland-Virginia Boundary Dispute," discussed the history of the border dispute between Maryland and Virginia that began in the early 17th century and continues today.

James Hesen

A native Marylander, Gelbman traveled throughout the world and worked as a computer analyst and in radio and television before attending SSU. She is an honors student and a history major who will graduate in spring 2002. After graduation, Gelbman hopes to attend law school in Boston and possibly pursue a parallel masters degree in history in order to teach. Ultimately, Gelbman wants to use her history degree and future law degree to work in political action for civil and international human rights. She is currently active in the human rights groups Rainbow Room Inc. and Free State Justice.

Congratulations are also in order for SSU junior, James Hesen. Hesen was recently awarded the Miles-Stevenson Research Prize for his biography of Randall Revell, an important early resident of Somerset County. The Miles-Stevenson Research Prize is a new $250 award fund given to a SSU student for outstanding family research focusing on the ancestry of Roger Atwood Miles and Arintha May Stevenson. The prize was established by a generous gift from member Marelynn Zipser and is awarded in both the fall and spring semesters. Hesen conducted his research as part of his coursework for his proseminar class with SSU instructor, Dean Fafoutis.

Hesen is a native of Hampstead, MD. After graduation, he plans to pursue a doctoral degree in American history to enable him to teach on the college level. Hesen is a member of the SSU rugby team and hopes to intern at the Nabb Research Center next fall.

Congratulations, Doris and James! Anyone interested in submitting his/her research for either the Washburn Prize or the Miles-Stevenson Research Prize can find additional information on our Web site, http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/.

Neil Pontificates

Continued from page 8

centers. Except for those reasons, there was little need for towns. Most items and services that towns could provide were either unnecessary or could be imported directly. For those who did not ship large enough quantities of tobacco to be advanced credit with which to import items from Britain, the larger planters filled the void by acting as storekeepers and merchants. With the growth of grain as a staple and the rise of Philadelphia as the primary market for the crop, the need for towns became more manifest.

Communities began to grow around the gristmills that dotted streams across the Shore. Blacksmiths, coopers, stavemakers, carriage-makers would all have seen the potential for making a decent living in these communities as their trades were essential to the shipment of wheat. As the communities grew, stores sprang up to cater to these craftsmen and workers. Inns sprang up along the roads and at major crossroads that were used by the wagoners hauling the crop northward and merchants' factors who came south to consign the crops. Many of these towns, such as Quantico on the western side of present-day Wicomico County would remain vigorous and flourish into the 20th century when the automobile and the paving of county roads brought on their decline into today's bedroom communities.

As the economic ties strengthened between the Shore and Philadelphia, social and cultural ties between the two were impacted as well. In keeping with the societal structure of the times, chains of interest began to cement the two together. Sons were sent to the city from the Shore to apprentice in Philadelphia mercantile houses, and Philadelphians began moving southward to take advantage of the opportunities that were opening up.

Neil Keddie received his M.A. in history from Salisbury State University in 1992. He is currently an instructor of history at Chesapeake College where he teaches U.S. and world history. Neil and his wife Les Keddie own and operate The Family Tree Bookshop, an Internet bookshop that specializes in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia genealogy and Chesapeake history. The Web address for The Family Tree Bookshop is www.familytreebookshop.com.

Eastern Shore Writers' Association

by Corinne Les Callette

On Saturday, January 13, the Eastern Shore Writers' Association held their winter meeting at the Nabb Research Center. Corinne Les Callette, research assistant, introduced the members to the Center as she gave a brief history, beginning with the founding in two history offices in Holloway Hall to the present facility which is bulging at the seams.

Using the current display at the Nabb Research Center as an example, she shared the inventory of 1714 and the will of 1715 of William Powell, discussing the items recorded in the inventory and showing examples of them from the display which are on loan from the Wicomico Historical Society.

At the conclusion of the program the members received a tour of the Center and many agreed they would return, not only to do genealogical research, but to use our resources in writing their books.

An Invitation to Tea!

Do you have a teapot with Eastern Shore genealogy? Do you have an antique teapot that you would be willing to include in a December 2001 event at the Nabb Research Center? If interested, please contact the Center at 410-543-6312 for more information.

Sponsor a Settler!

Are you interested in obtaining copies of wills and inventories on colonial ancestors from Maryland? For a sponsorship fee of $50 per ancestor, you can be part of the great awakening of Delmarva history! We will provide the sponsor a paper or digital copy of the will and inventory, plus a transcribed copy! Additionally, your name will be listed in the *Shoreline* and on our Web site as a sponsor of the project.

The Nabb Research Center is undertaking an immense digital history project, "American Origins" beginning July 1. Formal announcement and details of this exciting endeavor will be the featured article in the summer newsletter. While we have been fortunate to obtain federal funding for part of the initiative, private support is needed.

The initial area of focus will be the neck of land in Somerset County between the Wicomico River and Monie, a.k.a. Hungary Neck. a.k.a. Mount Vernon, however, sponsorship is available for any settler (or descendant) of old Somerset County up to 1750. A 20 percent discount is available for immediate sponsorship of the following individuals: Charles Ballard*, Benjamin Cottman*, Nehemiah Covington Sr., Nehemiah Covington Jr., Philip Covington, Thomas Covington, Betty Gale, Henry Hayman*, Thomas Hobbs, Thomas Holbrook, Cornelius Johnson, Daniel Jones*, William Jones, Richard Kimball, John Rencher, Thomas Rencher, Francis Roberts*, William Robertson, Thomas Walker, Thomas Row, William Stevens, William Thorne, John Westlock, John White

To sponsor an individual, simply mail a check payable to SSU Foundation Inc. addressed to Becky Miller, Nabb Research Center, 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801 in the amount of $50, indicating in the memo portion the name of the ancestor and approximate death date.

*no will, patent substitution

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